

Appl. No. 09/288,836
Amdt. Dated July 9, 2004
Reply to Office Action of April 14, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed April 14, 2004. In the Office Action, claims 11 and 12 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but contain allowable subject matter. Claim 11 has been placed into independent form to include limitations from claims 8-10. Claim 12 remains dependent on claim 11. As a result, claims 11 and 12 are in condition for allowance.

Claims 8 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,960,081 issued to Vynne. Moreover, claims 2-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Tewfik in view of Rhoads and claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Vynne in view of Leighton. While Applicants traverse these rejections, claims 2-10 have been cancelled without prejudice.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 2-10 under 35 U.S.C. §§102(b) and 103(a).

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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Susan McFarlane

July 9, 2004

Date